

of the State, even though the authors may not be able to attend the Annual Session *in person*.

(Note. Such papers can be listed, "Read by Title," but can be actually read, if desired, by some section member living in Los Angeles.)

This plan will also give CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE up-to-date papers, and such "Read by Title" papers will be eligible for publication in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

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From the above, you will note that all Section Officers have the responsibility to proceed with the arrangement of their respective programs.

Because of the transportation and associated difficulties of this wartime period, the Officers of each Section may wish to re-check on essayists who are in the Los Angeles area, both in civilian practice or nearby hospital stations of Army or Navy camps and hospitals.

Cordially yours,

C.M.A. COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC WORK,
By GEORGE H. KRESS, *Chairman*
(ex officio, Association Secretary)

COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES

Fourteenth Midwinter Postgraduate Clinical Course of Research Study Club of Los Angeles

*Four Hundred Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists
Attend Conference*

More than 400 eye, ear, nose and throat specialists from all over the country began assembling on January 22 for the fourteenth annual midwinter postgraduate clinical convention in ophthalmology and otolaryngology, which got under way at the Elks Temple, 607 South Parkview avenue, Los Angeles. The convention continued to Feb. 2.

Held under the auspices of the Research Club of Los Angeles, the conference was the nature of a post graduate study clinic embodying a free exchange of ideas and new clinical experience.

Listed as teachers were the following out-of-town doctors: John J. Shea, Memphis; Cecil S. O'Brien, Iowa City, Iowa; Hans Brunner, Chicago; Kenneth G. Swan, Portland, Ore.; Guy L. Boyden, Portland, Ore.; William Crisp, Denver; Chauncey D. Leake, Galveston; Samuel Salinger, Chicago; Irving B. Lueck, Rochester, N. Y.; Scott N. Reger, Iowa City, Iowa; George N. Hosford, San Francisco; Meyer Wiener, Coronado, Cal., and Samuel A. Crooks, Loma Linda, Cal.

On Monday evening, January 22, the Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology held its annual meeting and banquet at the Elks Club and welcomed the members and teaching staff of the Mid-Winter Course. In addition to Guest-Lecturers of the Midwinter Course, President Lowell S. Goin and Secretary George H. Kress of the California Medical Association were called on to discuss current medical legislation.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL ECONOMICS

Gross and Net Incomes of Physicians (COPY)

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, 10

January 29, 1945.

My dear Doctor Kress:

Your letter of January 26 came to my desk a few minutes ago.

We have no late figures pertaining to physicians' incomes. Some years ago we undertook what I believe to be the most intensive and comprehensive survey that has ever yet been undertaken but when it was all done some of us had grave doubts as to the accuracy of the figures reached. Instead of using the methods usually employed in making such surveys we made a very earnest effort to secure information from many thousands of doctors rather than from a very few hundreds or a very few thousands. It was found that it was exceedingly difficult to secure information from men in the lower income groups and even more difficult to secure dependable information from the men in the highest income groups. Responses received from some states were very meager and from other states much more numerous than had been expected. It is my purely personal opinion that many individuals kept exceedingly poor records and that the estimates of their own incomes were little more than guesses, that being especially true with respect to net incomes. Even so, the figures that were developed as the result of our survey were rather closely in agreement with figures compiled by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care.

I doubt very much that it is advisable to utilize any figures that have been recently compiled for the purpose of estimating the average incomes either gross or net. There are now some 60,000 physicians on active duty with the military forces and with other governmental agencies that are immediately concerned with medical service as an important part of the war effort. That means, of course, that the number of physicians available for civilian service is relatively small as compared to the number that would be available in normal times. Naturally, it is, of course, inevitable that individual incomes in 1943 would be higher than in normal times and the result is that any picture that might be drawn on the basis of present conditions would be altogether abnormal and would not mean anything except that physicians now engaged in civilian practice are enjoying larger incomes than ever before.

However, all this may be, I shall make immediate effort to secure for you available information concerning our own survey and I shall forward it to you at the earliest possible time.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) OLIN WEST.

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(COPY)

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Chicago, January 29, 1945.

Dr. George H. Kress,
450 Sutter Street,
San Francisco.

American Medical Association survey of 1928, median gross income all physicians was \$7,431. Private practitioners \$8,090 median net, all physicians same year \$4,555.

Private practitioners, \$4,938 Committee on the costs of medical care survey of 1929. Median gross income all physicians was \$7,026. Private practitioners \$7,662. Median net all physicians, \$4,200.

Private practitioners \$4,100 Michigan State Medical Society survey, 1931. Median gross all physicians \$5,637. Median net all physicians \$3,264.

California Medical Association survey, median net income \$5,000 to \$5,999 in 1929; \$3,000 to \$3,999 in 1933.

State Medical Society of Wisconsin in 1930 indicated twenty-six and three-tenths per cent physicians net in-